

## REMARKS

All of the claims were rejected in the above-identified Office Action in view of the same prior art relied upon in the previous Office Action. However, independent Claim 1 has now been amended to clarify the patentable distinctions of the present invention as compared to that prior art.

In particular, Claim 1 now requires an image pickup apparatus which includes a color filter array of four colors, having a color periodicity unit of two rows x two columns, and the provision of at least two different color difference signals using all the pixels included in the color periodicity unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that these features of the present invention are not disclosed by the cited references. As stated in the Office Action, the cited Takizawa patent does not disclose an operation circuit as required in the claims. In this regard, the cited Ukita patent discloses, in Figs. 2, 10-13, 18, and 22, a color filter array which has a color periodicity unit of four rows x two columns. This periodicity unit is not used to operate color difference signals. Although the Ukita patent uses pixels of two rows x two columns (four pixels D in Fig. 3) to operate the signals, those four pixels are not those of a color periodicity unit of the color filter array. Accordingly, the Ukita patent also fails to disclose the operation circuit functioning together with the color filter array as specifically required in amended independent Claim 1.

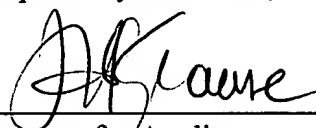
In view of the above, the cited Takizawa and Ukita patents when considered alone or in combination, do not suggest the present invention as set forth in amended

independent Claim 1, and the Suguki patent does not overcome these deficiencies of Takizawa and Ukita as rejecting references.

For these various reasons Applicants believe that the claims as now presented are allowable, wherefore the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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